Angola

The Government continues to participate in programs to combat the worst forms of child labor. However, a wide variety of the worst forms of child labor persists, and children engaged in street work and agriculture continues to be a problem. Significant gaps remain in the legal framework and law enforcement efforts, including unclear lines of statutory and delegated authority.

Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

Children	Age	Percent
Working	5-14 yrs.	25.7*
Attending School	5-14 yrs.	65.4
Combining Work and School	7-14 yrs.	22.1





Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in Angola are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including agriculture and street work. 163

Children working in agriculture are known to apply chemicals, use machinery and dangerous tools and carry heavy loads. Although evidence is limited, there is reason to believe that the worst forms of child labor are used in the production of bananas and pineapples. ¹⁶⁴ Children also work in animal herding and fishing. ¹⁶⁵

Some children in rural areas work in artisanal diamond mining. ¹⁶⁶ Children are also reportedly working in charcoal and in forced child labor in the production of rice. ¹⁶⁷

In urban areas, children work as mechanic's assistants, construction workers, beauticians, barbers and welders. ¹⁶⁸ Children in Huambo work in informal markets lifting loads, cooking and selling goods such as meat, used clothing and alcoholic beverages. Children performing this work risk exposure to extreme elements, physical

injuries and skin burns.¹⁶⁹ Street children engage in begging, prostitution, car washing and the sale of goods.¹⁷⁰ These children are exposed to the sun and heat, poor air quality, heavy vehicular traffic, raw sewage and criminal and gang activity.¹⁷¹

Children in Luanda also work as domestic servants. ¹⁷² Children working as domestic servants are at risk of long working hours and exposure to physical and sexual exploitation by their employers.

In border areas and ports, children unload and transport goods. ¹⁷³ Children are forced to act as couriers in illegal cross-border trade between Angola and Namibia in order to avoid import fees. ¹⁷⁴ Children are used in the sale and transport of illegal drugs and are victims of sexual exploitation. ¹⁷⁵ Children are also recruited by criminal gangs. ¹⁷⁶

Angola is a source and destination country for trafficking in children. ¹⁷⁷ Children are trafficked for work in agriculture, domestic labor and commercial sexual exploitation. ¹⁷⁸ Angolan

children are trafficked to Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Namibia, South Africa and Europe—primarily Portugal—to perform a wide variety of work.¹⁷⁹

Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14.¹⁸⁰ Law No. 13 of 2001 establishes free and compulsory basic education, but does not set a specific age for such education.¹⁸¹ The lack of a specific age for compulsory education makes children younger than age 14 vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor as they are not required to be in school and are below the minimum legal age for work. ¹⁸² In addition, school fees and a lack of school infrastructure and teaching materials deter children from attending school. In some cases, schools request voluntary payment from parents for improvements, and adolescents share classrooms with small children.¹⁸³

MION	C138, Minimum Age	✓
	C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	CRC	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	No
	Minimum Age for Work	14
	Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	No
	Compulsory Education Age	No
	Free Public Education	Yes

The Labor Code allows children between ages 14 and 16 to work with consent from their guardians.

However, such consent is not required if the child is married or otherwise deemed an adult.184 It allows minors to perform light work but does not establish the ages at which they can do so, the activities allowed, the maximum number of hours they can work or the conditions of work.¹⁸⁵ During the reporting period, the Government of Angola established a list of hazardous work prohibited for minors that includes 56 activities and materials, such as fireworks production, stone mining, animal slaughter and leather production, brick and paper making and pornography as well as the use of toxic substances such as sulfuric acid, ammonia, dyes and bitumen.¹⁸⁶ The ILO Committee of Experts has pointed out that although the Labor Code prohibits minors from engaging in hazardous work, it does not clearly set the minimum age for hazardous work.¹⁸⁷

The Constitution of Angola prohibits forced labor, trafficking and slavery. The Constitution forbids the extradition of Angolan nationals, which may hamper regional efforts to prosecute Angolan nationals involved in international trafficking. Although the Government of Angola has not formally approved a new Penal Code, it follows the regulations established in the draft code, which prohibits the sale of a child younger than age 14, commercial sexual exploitation of children, trafficking of children for sexual purposes and the use of children younger than age 18 in pornography. The Government has established a Tourism Code to combat commercial sexual exploitation. 191

The minimum age for recruitment and enlistment in the armed forces is 16.192

Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement

The Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS) and the National Children's Institute (INAC) coordinate government policies to protect the rights of children, while the National Council of Children (CNAC) monitors their implementation. ¹⁹³ The

CNAC is led by MINARS and includes the INAC, 15 other ministries and 18 representatives from civil society organizations. It has its own budget and a network of provincial and municipal councils of children. However, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is concerned about the transparency in the selection of civil society representatives. 195

While the Ministry of Public Administration, Employment and Social Security (MAPESS) is responsible for the enforcement of labor laws, it has neither the authority nor the structure to ensure compliance.¹⁹⁶ Labor inspectors conducted joint operations with provincial governments, health inspectors, tax authorities, social services providers and financial authorities, but there is no information available on how these operations are conducted or their results. 197 Although the INAC, the ombudsman and the Ministry of Family and Women's Affairs receive complaints related to child labor, it is not clear whether these complaints are investigated by labor inspectors. 198 There is no information available on the number of labor inspectors or inspections performed during the reporting period. In 2010, MAPESS received a budget of \$910 million, but there is no information available about how much was dedicated to labor inspections.¹⁹⁹ Furthermore, the ILO Committee of Experts has expressed concerns about the remuneration gaps and working conditions among inspection staff.²⁰⁰ Between 2009 and 2010, ILO, with funding from the Government of Norway, carried out a multicountry initiative to strengthen labor inspectorates which included Angola. As part of this initiative, officials from MAPESS participated in an international seminar on labor inspection good practices and a study visit in Brazil to learn about its experience in labor inspections.²⁰¹

The Courts for Minors enforce child protection legislation, which seeks to prevent children from violence, including child labor and prostitution.²⁰²

However, there is no information available about activities to combat child labor carried out by the courts.

The Ministry of the Interior enforces criminal laws related to trafficking.²⁰³ During the reporting period, the Government, in partnership with IOM, provided training to 487 law enforcement officials.²⁰⁴ In 2010, the INAC reported seven cases of child trafficking in the province of Zaire. Four of the victims were children from the DRC who were reunited with their families. No investigations or prosecutions were conducted.²⁰⁵

Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The 11 Commitments for Angolan Children is the main policy to protect children's rights, which includes combating poverty, protecting children from exploitation and providing education to every child.²⁰⁶ The Government has established the National Strategy to Prevent and Mitigate Violence against Children to guide government efforts to address violence against children.²⁰⁷ The Government of Angola adopted a national policy to provide free birth registration for children younger than age 5 and free identification cards for children up to age 11, so that they can enroll in school, can have access to social services and are less likely to be at risk of human trafficking. According to the CRC, progress on birth registration has not been significant since 2002, and there is no guarantee that children age 5 and older can be registered because of lack of human and financial resources.208

The Government has incorporated child labor and education issues into some of its broader development policies. The Angolan Poverty Reduction Strategy recognizes that a leading cause of poverty is a lack of access to basic services, such as education. An estimated 34 percent of children younger than age 11 have never attended school.²⁰⁹

The Government cites the lack of human resources and insufficient schools as the main obstacles to providing education. The strategy also recognizes that children drop out of school to help their families meet their basic needs. ²¹⁰ To improve the education system and expand access to education, the Government has developed the National Education for All plan and increased budget allocations for education. ²¹¹ However, the CRC and UNICEF have pointed out that the funding is inadequate. Although the Government allocates 30 percent of its budget to social programs, only 5 percent of that budget is assigned to education. ²¹²

In March 2011, Angola and other members of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries approved four target areas where they will focus efforts to combat child labor, which include the exchange of information and experiences, awareness-raising campaigns, the use of statistical methodologies to collect child labor data and technical cooperation and training.²¹³

Social Programs to Eliminate or Prevent the Worst Forms of Child Labor

To implement the 11 Commitments for Angolan Children policy, the Government has carried out a public campaign to raise awareness of the commitments among local governments, civil society organizations and religious and traditional leaders; to coordinate activities through the INAC; and to ensure that local governments include child-related issues in their plans and allocate the corresponding funding.²¹⁴ In 2008, the Government launched the System of Indicators for Angolan Children to track the implementation of the 11 commitments; however, it has not been fully developed due to a lack of resources.²¹⁵ During the reporting period, the INAC continued to disseminate the 11 Commitments for Angolan Children across the country and carried out awareness-raising campaigns to combat child labor in street work.216 The Government released

the results of the national well-being survey conducted in 2008, which includes general information about child labor.²¹⁷

To combat child labor, the Government of Angola provides microcredit opportunities to families, helps families keep their children in school while they migrate with cattle herds and offers job training for youth. The Government also provides free meals for school children.²¹⁸

The Government operates a hotline in Luanda to receive reports of child trafficking. In 2010, the Government expanded the hotline to the province of Benguela during the African Cup of Nations soccer tournament.²¹⁹ During the reporting period, it ran an anti-trafficking awareness-raising campaign during the preparations for the tournament. The Government partners with civil society organizations to assist victims of trafficking in 18 provinces through child protection networks at the local level.²²⁰

During the reporting period, the Government of Angola participated in a 3-year, \$3.5 million USDOL-funded project to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the province of Benguela and the city of Luanda. This initiative conducted a baseline study on child labor; trained more than 650 teachers; provided educational and school materials to teachers and children; and withdrew 2,653 children and prevented 4,767 children from child labor in agriculture, herding and charcoal making.²²¹ In 2010, USDOL began to fund a 2-year, \$500,000 project to strengthen the capacity of Lusophone countries in Africa, including Angola, to combat child labor, which will complement a South-South initiative funded by the Government of Brazil.²²²

In addition, the Government participates in a 4-year, \$14.75 million project funded by the European Union to combat child labor through education in 11 countries.²²³

Angola receives support from international donors to improve access to education for vulnerable children. In 2010, UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Hamburg Society launched Schools for Africa Phase II, which seeks to benefit 8 million children in 11 African countries.

In Angola, Schools for Africa Phase I benefited 54,000 teachers and 2,430,000 children and rebuilt 383 schools.²²⁴ UNICEF works in partnership with the Government to identify and assist undocumented children.²²⁵

Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Angola:

IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Make education compulsory through age 14.
- Establish conditions, maximum number of hours and type of activities under which children age 14 and younger can perform light work.
- Clarify the minimum age for hazardous work.
- Formally approve the draft Penal Code and consider—
 - Increasing penalties for commercial sexual exploitation of children.
 - Establishing penalties for the use of children older than age 16 in pornography.
 - Prohibiting all forms of trafficking of children.
- Raise the minimum age for military recruitment and enlistment to 18.

IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Modernize and strengthen the labor inspection system, including providing adequate remuneration to inspection staff.
- Provide information on budget allocations for child labor enforcement activities.
- Ensure that complaints related to child labor are investigated by relevant government agencies.
- Establish coordination mechanisms between all bodies performing investigations and inspections of law violations related to child labor.
- Establish clear lines of authority to enforce each provision of the Labor and Penal Codes that address a
 worst form of child labor.
- Investigate and prosecute trafficking cases when victims are identified.

IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Use the results of the national well-being survey to consider the targeting of existing social programs.
- Accelerate child birth registration and identification processes to facilitate school enrollment, provide social services to vulnerable children and reduce children's risk of being trafficked.
- Expand government efforts to provide access to education.

IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS:

- Provide funds to ensure the implementation of the 11 Commitments for Angolan Children and the System of Indicators for Angolan Children monitoring system.
- Conduct research on the worst forms of child labor.
- Develop and implement programs that target children engaged in agriculture, street work, domestic service, mining and forced labor, including cross-border child couriers.

- Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates*, 2005-2010. Data provided are from 2001. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics on children's work are reported in this chart, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section. See also U.S. Embassy- Luanda, *reporting, February* 16, 2011.
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